

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

CHILCOTT *gc*

LUND *BT*

THOMPSON

TAYLOR (Clerk & Recorder)

Date.....August 25, 2006

Members Present.....Commissioner Greg Chilcott, Commissioner Betty Lund and Commissioner Alan Thompson

Minutes: Glenda Wiles

The Board met to discuss the contract for emergency substance abuse services with Western Montana Addiction Services. Present at this meeting was Administrative Officer Skip Rosenthal, County Attorney George Corn, Deputy County Attorney Karen Mahar, Detention Lt. Cathy Powell and Jim Mason of Western Montana Addiction Services.

Karen briefed the Board on the training the detention officers have received from Western Montana Addiction Services. The training was excellent and they realize the need for further chemical dependency emergency assessments and treatment plans and placements for detainees of the Ravalli County Detention Center. The contract also allows for further training of the detention staff.

George recommended the Commissioners enter into this agreement. From a law enforcement and county attorney perspective these emergency assessments and treatment are necessary and it is important for the employees to continue receive this training. George is hopeful that the state will ultimately become involved in this issue particularly in light of paying for the service. This is a 6-month contract and will allow us a trial period in this type of service. George stated the Sheriff might look to his drug fund in order to fund this \$6,000 fee.

Sheriff Chris Hoffman was now present. He stated the only hold up he sees is the funding. They are doing everything they can in order to make the detention facility a safer place for the inmates and staff. They are still working on obtaining the medical care by a local physician. He has not had enough time to review the drug fund money for the purposes of funding and would need to review that option.

George felt this was a natural place to take the money for this 6-month funding. Sheriff Hoffman stated he would not want the drug fund to become the 'funding source' for this contract. His operating budget is limited and they do not want to rely on this source and

create a lack of funds in other areas where the drug fund money is needed such as equipment.

Discussion also included whether 18-hours per month would be enough. Jim stated they are not sure of this yet, as it is a trial period to see what they ultimately need. He stated he is willing to 'come to the detention center and assist in some training and assessments that he will not charge for'. Jim stated he is not sure if they will use the entire budget in the 6-months or use it all within the first 4-months. If they run out money, they will finish the 6-month contract. Skip stated Western Montana Addiction Services is willing to enter into this 6-month pilot period and if the funds run out they will continue the service through the length of the contract. At the end of the 6-months we can reassess this for further services.

Karen stated the ultimate choice is to streamline the care of the detainees and it is a benefit for the county to have a 6-month contract while we are looking at the medical contract and what grants are out there that we might be eligible for.

George stated this type of service is an excellent public policy, both from a law enforcement perspective for crimes that are being committed and from an attorney's perspective for liability.

Skip stated this service is not treatment; it is simply a transition to the proper treatment. George stated this will also give us a chance to take what we learn to the state legislators for future local needs.

Cathy stated the staff feels uncomfortable dealing with the mental health issues and chemical dependency issues. This will assist them in the needed training. She stated they are 'really' in need of the medical care and services which can also be the referral to chemical dependency treatment. She stated her staff does not have that expertise.

Sheriff Hoffman stated he supports this contract and could utilize drug fund money for the 6-months, but would like to review that budget prior to pledging it. Commissioner Lund made a motion to sign the contract for Western Montana Addiction for 6-months in the amount of \$5,940.00, monies to come from the drug fund unless other grant monies could be obtained. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. Discussion was to start the contract on September 1, 2006 through February 28, 2007. Karen stated there are some highlighted areas that need to be completed. A completed and corrected original will be returned to the Commissioners for signatures. All voted "aye".

The remainder of the day was spent in office management.